Before tlie "War tlie demand for national or cultural autonomy had been taken up by a large proportion of the Jews of Eastern Europe. In the "Nationalisation of the Diaspora" the Zionists, too, came to see a strengthening of the Jewish national consciousness and a stage on the road to Palestine. At the Helsingfors Conference in 1906, the Russian Zionists put forward the demand for national rights for the Jews in Russia and made it part of their programme; similarly the Austrian Zionists declared for cultural autonomy and a stronger participation of the Jews, as a separate group, in the politics of the country.

While formerly Jewish deputies could be found only in the ranks of parties without a specifically Jewish character, at the Austrian general election of 1907 the National Jews put up their own candidates, of whom four entered Parliament, and formed themselves into a Jewish Club.

(4) THE MINORITY TREATIES

The Peace Treaties wrought a fundamental change in. the position of national minorities. Wherever nations inhabit compact territories, they have been granted national independence. But where they live scattered amongst other nationalities, which is the case of the Jews, the newly formed or reconstructed States were made to

sign treaties guaranteeing the cultural rights of minorities, *i.e.* "of inhabitants who differ from the majority of the population in race,[1] language, or religion[55].

The Minority clauses were either embodied in separate treaties *(e.g.* in the Treaty signed between the Principal Allied and Associated Powers and Poland at Versailles on June 18, 1919), or in separate chapters of a general Peace

[1] The word "race" is not employed in tlie anthropological sense, but rather to express the ethnic homogeneity possessed by a people through descent and common interest.